

Sony Six  
Pakistan v Sri Lanka  
Second Test, Day 4  
Live from 12:00pm  
STAR Sports 4  
English Premiership

Hull City v Chelsea  
Live from 6:45pm  
Tottenham v Crystal Palace  
Live from 9:00pm  
Man United v Swansea City  
Live from 11:00pm

Primera Liga  
Elche v Sevilla  
Live from 3:00am (Sunday)  
STAR Sports HD1  
English Premiership  
Everton v Norwich City

Live from 9:00pm  
Primera Liga  
Celta de Vigo v Valencia  
Live from 11:00pm  
Atletico Madrid v Barcelona  
Live from 1:00am (Sunday)

STAR Sports HD2  
Serie A  
Bologna v Lazio  
Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

Premier League  
Mohammedan v Uttar  
Bardhara  
Time: 5:00pm

Venue: BNS  
Club Cup Hockey

Usha KC v Ajax SC  
Live from 1:00pm

Abahani v Sonali Bank  
Time: 3:00pm

Venue: Maulana Bhasani

## Toure wins African gong

AFP, Lagos

Manchester City star Yaya Toure on Thursday won a third straight African Footballer of the year award.

The 31-year-old Ivory Coast international also won in 2011 and 2012. Nigeria's John Obi Mikel was second and Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast finished third.

"I thank my family for their support and also congratulate John Obi Mikel, who also deserved this award," said Toure, who was a key player for both club and country last year.

Egyptian legend Mohamed Aboutrika beat compatriot Ahmed Fathy and Sunday Mba from Nigeria to win the best Player based in Africa.

Nigeria scooped several awards to underline a very successful year with coach Stephen Keshi voted Africa's best coach, while the Super Eagles were the best national team after they won a third Africa cup of Nations in February and qualified for a fifth World Cup.

## Roma edge Sampdoria

AFP, Rome

Roma beat Sampdoria 1-0 in the last 16 of the Italian Cup on Thursday to set up a quarterfinal meeting with Juventus.

Greek international full-back Vasilis Torosidis scored the only goal of the game with just six minutes played at the Stadio Olimpico as Roma bounced back from a 3-0 Serie A drubbing at the hands of Juve last weekend.

Roma, whose form has been patchy since they started the season with 10 consecutive league wins, could have won by more but for a fine performance from visiting goalkeeper Vincenzo Fiorillo.

Udinese knocked out Inter Milan 1-0 with Brazilian Maicosuel scoring the only goal in the 18th minute.

## BSPA sports awards today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Sports Press Association (BSPA) will hold its annual award ceremony for the 2011-12 calendar years at the National Sports Council Auditorium today where Speaker of the Parliament Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury is expected to attend as chief guest.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, AASM Arefin Siddique, will also attend the program as special guest.

Some 18 athletes and organisers from different disciplines will be given the awards as a recognition of their performance and contribution to the country's sports, said a BSPA

## Madrid canter past Osasuna

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid took a huge step towards the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey with a 2-0 win over Osasuna in the first leg of their last 16 tie on Thursday.

Karim Benzema got the hosts off to the perfect start when he headed in Luka Modric's cross after 19 minutes.

Jese Rodriguez then gave Madrid breathing space in the tie when he chipped home Cristiano Ronaldo's pass after half-time.

And Madrid were only denied a third in comic circumstances moments later as Ronaldo deflected Gareth Bale's goalbound effort behind.

Real boss Carlo Ancelotti named a strong side with Bale returning to the starting line-up for the first time in four games following a calf injury.

Jese was also given a rare chance from the start and he thought he had won his side a penalty on 16 minutes when he went down under a challenge from Osasuna goalkeeper Asier Riesgo.

However, after originally pointing to the spot, referee Jesus Perez Montero reversed his decision and harshly booked Jese for diving.

Minutes later Madrid were in front as Benzema flicked home Modric's free-kick to register his 99th goal for the club.

Ronaldo passed up a great chance to double the advantage when he fired straight at Riesgo after a lovely scooped pass from Bale.



Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema (L) heads in the opening goal during their Copa del Rey match against Osasuna at the Bernabeu on Thursday. PHOTO: AFP

## MU look for revenge

AFP, London

Manchester United will look for immediate revenge against Swansea City on Saturday, a week after the Welsh club pulled off a shock victory at Old Trafford in the FA Cup.

Having lost to Tottenham Hotspur in the league, and Sunderland, in the League Cup, either side of last Sunday's defeat by Swansea, United have lost their first three games of the year for the first time since 1932.

The New Year's Day defeat by Spurs left David Moyes's side 11 points behind leaders Arsenal in the Premier League and striker Danny Welbeck has admitted that the defending champions face a struggle even to finish in the top four.

"Being a Manchester lad and being a United fan, there is extra passion inside me and it does hurt me when I see the team losing. It hurts a lot to see United not winning," Welbeck said.

"I can understand why fans are concerned. We are not around the Champions League spots at the moment. We need to get our form back and just win the next matches."

"It was very disappointing to go out of the FA Cup against Swansea and we have to rectify that at Old Trafford on Saturday."

With leaders Arsenal not in action until Monday, when they visit Aston Villa, third-placed Chelsea can take over at the top of the standings by winning at Hull City in Saturday's early fixture.

Last season's Europa League winners have yet to capture the imagination in this campaign, but midfielder John Mikel Obi believes that manager Jose Mourinho's exacting methods are beginning to bear fruit.

"He always wants us to play in a certain way and give 110 percent," Mikel said. "If you don't, you're out."

"You can see by the way we press up the pitch. That is important for the team and we're doing well."

This weekend's games are the reverse fixtures from the season's first round of matches.

While Arsenal's 3-1 capitulation at home to Villa on the opening day seems a long time ago, Manchester City continue to look every bit as impressive as they did in their 4-0 victory over Newcastle United on August 19.

Manchester United will continue their astonishing home form by destroying West Ham United 6-0 in the League Cup on Wednesday and they will also have designs on leapfrogging Arsenal when they visit Newcastle on Sunday.

City have now scored 92 goals in all competitions, just one less than they managed in the entirety of the 2012-13 campaign, but midfielder Javi Garcia says that they must keep their feet on the ground.

"I think this season we can win a lot of trophies, but we have to keep working like this," he said.

"The most important thing for us is that the players keep working, because we have so many games. This is the way we have to keep going."

West Ham have conceded 11 goals in two games, having previously lost 5-0 at Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup, and find themselves second from bottom in the league table ahead of Saturday's trip to Cardiff City.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will be taking charge of his first home game as Cardiff manager, after masterminding a 2-1 win at Newcastle in the FA Cup last weekend in his first match at the helm.

Buoyed by the mid-week success over Manchester United in their League Cup semi-final first leg, bottom club Sunderland will hope to bridge the four-point gap that separates them from safety when they visit fifth-bottom Fulham on Saturday.

Third-bottom Crystal Palace, meanwhile, face Tottenham, who have climbed to sixth on the back of a four-game unbeaten run under rookie manager Tim Sherwood.

## FIXTURES

**Saturday**

(1500 GMT unless otherwise stated): Cardiff City v West Ham United, Everton v Norwich City, Fulham v Sunderland, Hull City v Chelsea (1245 GMT), Manchester United v Swansea City (1730 GMT), Southampton v West Bromwich Albion, Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace

**Sunday**

Newcastle United v Manchester City (1405 GMT), Stoke City v Liverpool (1610 GMT)

**Monday**

## Messi in line for Atletico

AFP, Madrid

Four-time World Player of the Year Lionel Messi could make his first start in two months as Barcelona travel to face Atletico Madrid in a top of the table clash on Saturday.

Both sides are locked on 49 points having dropped just five points each in 18 league games this season.

Messi made a spectacular return from a hamstring injury on Wednesday as he scored twice as a second-half substitute in the Catalans' 4-0 thrashing of Getafe in the Copa del Rey.

The Argentine's form leaves coach Gerardo Martino with a difficult decision as to who to start up front at the Vicente Calderon.

Brazilian forward Neymar is also available after missing the Getafe game with a bout of gastroenteritis, but the triumvirate of Alexis Sanchez, Pedro

Rodriguez and Cesc Fabregas have deputised ably in Messi and Neymar's absence in recent weeks.

Midfielder Xavi Hernandez hailed Messi's return as great news for the club heading into such a busy period on three fronts and believes the competition for places can only be a good thing.

"He doesn't surprise you anymore, but to see him in that form is impressive. He has returned hungry. The important thing is that he has returned in good shape and motivated," he told the Barcelona website.

"We are strong and now that we have both him and Victor (Valdes) back there is a lot of competition and the team is looking pretty good."

"The game against Atletico is vital for the development of the league. It is not definitive but if we were to win it would be a strong signal of intent."

Many believe Saturday will be the acid test of whether Atletico can realistically challenge Barca for the title.

However, midfielder Koke was keen to play down the importance of the clash with a further 19 league games still remaining after the weekend.

"It will be an important game because it is between the top two teams in the league. However, it is only one match and the whole second-half of the season is left, although we realise it is the most important game we have

## FIXTURES

(all times GMT)

**Saturday**

Athletic Bilbao v Almeria (1500), Celta Vigo v Valencia (1700), Atletico Madrid v Barcelona (1900), Elche v Sevilla (2100)

**Sunday**

Getafe v Rayo Vallecano (1100), Real Betis v Osasuna (1600), Espanyol v Real Madrid (1800), Levante v Malaga (2000)

**Monday**

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## DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR ENTERPRISE AND SOCIETY

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh invites applications for the post of Director in the Center for Enterprise and Society, an upcoming research institute founded in January 2012 that seeks to advance understanding of the opportunities and challenges to enterprise and social development in Bangladesh through objective, academic study. The Director will be expected to lead the center in its activity areas, including conducting academic research, encouraging public engagement and debate, and improving university education. The Director will also be expected to teach at ULAB and promote a research culture among the broader ULAB community. More information about the Center can be found at <http://www.ulab.edu.bd/CES/home/>

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- Strong analytical thinking and the ability to critically analyze complex phenomena, draw insightful conclusions, and explain findings in a straight forward and accessible way

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Application Instruction: Email application letter and CV to the Vice Chancellor: [hr.admin@ulab.edu.bd](mailto:hr.admin@ulab.edu.bd)  
Application deadline is January 31, 2014



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The Aga Khan Gold Cup Golf Tournament was inaugurated at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday. Vice Admiral M Farid Habib, chief of staff, Bangladesh Navy was present as the chief guest along with representatives of the golf club and the Aga Khan community of Bangladesh.

PHOTO: COURTESY